

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SCEM-02 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

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R 232244 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: BTRA, ENRG, GV, US

SUBJ: BUTTES OIL TEAM TO VISIT CONAKRY

1. BUTTES GAS AND OIL VICE PRESIDENT WILLIAM E. BASSINGER AND CANADIAN GEOLOGIST PHILLIP BRENNAN PLAN ARRIVE CONAKRY MAY 28 VIA AIR AFRIQUE FROM PARIS FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK VISIT TO PURSUE WITH ISMAEL TOURE INITIAL WRITTEN DEMARCHE MADE SIX MONTHS AGO FOR EXPLORATION RIGHTS TO OFF SHORE OIL. BASSINGER AND FRANK WALSH DURING MAY 23 CONVERSATION WITH DPTOFF EXPLAINED THAT BUTTES HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY AMBASSADOR SADAN MOUSSA TOURE TO INFORM THEM THAT VISAS HAD BEEN GRANTED AND THAT ISMAEL REQUESTED THEIR ARRIVAL CONAKRY ASAP.

2. SADAN TOURE HAD PREVIOUSLY INFORMED DEPTOFF HIS INTENTION PURSUE OFF SHORE EXPLORATION WITH UNNAMED US COMPANY, STRESSING THAT GUINEA HAD WIDEST WEST AFRICAN CONTINENTAL SHELF ( ESTIMATED 150 KMS). BASSINGER CONFIRMED FACT AND ADDED THAT OFF SHORE GUINEA PARTICULARLY ATTRACTIVE BECAUSE OF PROXIMITY GUINEA BISSAU FIELD AND FACT THAT NO WESTERN COMPANY HAS PERFORMED OFF SHORE EXPLORATION IN RECENT YEARS.

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3. BUTTES WILL PROPOSE INITIAL PROGRAM OF FIRST YEAR DOLS  
ONE MILLION SEISMIC WORK AND OVERALL FIVE YEAR EXPLORATION  
PACKAGE APPROXIMATELY DOLS 23 MILLION. BUTTES PLANNING

SUGGEST GOG GIVE IT FIRST CHOICE BUT DIVIDE TOTAL CON-  
CESSION AREA INTO FOUR PARCELS. IF FIELD PROVES OUT,  
BUTTES WILL PROPOSE PRODUCTION SERVICE AGREEMENT BASED  
ON NIGERIAN AND RECENT INDONESIAN CONCESSIONS. THIS WOULD  
LEAVE OWNERSHIP WITH GOG AND GIVE IT 65-75 PERCENT OF  
REVENUES.

4. BUTTES DOES NOT HAVE FINANCIAL STRENGTH UNDERTAKE  
GUINEAN OPERATION ON ITS OWN BUT WOULD CHOOSE AMONG  
PARTNERS WITH WHOM IT NOW ASSOCIATED IN OTHER AREAS. THESE  
INCLUDE ASHLAND, SKELLY, KERR- MCGEE, CANADIAN SUPERIOR,  
ETC. ONLY PARTNER WHICH HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED INTEREST  
PARTICIPATE IS ITALIAN COMPANY SIR.

5. BASSINGER ASKING GUINEA EMBASSY RECONFIRM HOTEL  
RESERVATIONS MADE BY AIRLINE BUT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY  
DOUBLE CHECK. TEAM PLANNING CONTACT AMBASSADOR DURING  
VISIT. RUSH

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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